

depressions were more or less filled, and the whole covered with comminuted materials which, spread smoothly over the underlying rocks, formed a surface particularly favourable for cultivation."

Turning from the systematic, exact, and well-applied geology of the United States surveyors to the vague and dogmatic, uneducated and pretentious elaboration of an amateur's attempt at explanation and correlation of the grand geological phenomena of the western hemisphere, we take up, in Mr. G. Catlin's 'Lifted and Subsided Rocks of America,' a budget of as imperfect observations, erroneous impressions, false conclusions, and baseless fantasies as were ever put together in a so-called geological book. The only point of interest is the reference to subterranean streams of water in the Rocky-Mountain district; but far other means than crude notions, picked up casually in travel, and shaped by a little book-reading, must be used to indicate their unseen courses and lighten their obscure histories, whether they come out in the Pacific or the Atlantic, in both or in neither.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## Land-Planariæ.

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—In the September Number of the 'Annals of Natural History' (page 255) I observe a notice of two species of Land-Planariæ from Borneo, by the Rev. W. Houghton, who inquires regarding the occurrence of similar forms elsewhere. It may interest Mr. Houghton to know that I described a similar species, occurring at Madras in the cold season, under the name of *Planaria lunata*, which was of larger size and had no transverse stripes on the back.

I cannot give an exact reference to the volume of the 'Madras Journal of Literature and Science' in which the description occurs\*; but, if Mr. Houghton desires, I will do so on my return home, and may perhaps even be able to find a loose copy of the paper itself for him.

I remain, Gentlemen, yours &c.,

WALTER ELLIOT, F.L.S.

Edinburgh, Nov. 11, 1870.

\* I am now able to add the reference:—Madras Journ. of Lit. and Sc. vol. xv. (1848) p. 162, pl. 1.

Walfelee, Nov. 26th.

*Notes on the Genus Myoictis.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S.

I described this genus in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1858, from a small animal which Mr. Wallace found in the Island of Aru, where it lives in houses and is as destructive as rats to every thing eatable.

The British Museum received from Mr. Franks, as coming from the Leyden Museum, in 1868, a much larger animal, under the name of "*Myodictus Thorbeckii*," "*Guilolo, Salawati*." On comparison of the two animals, it is evidently the adult state of the



animal discovered in the Aru Islands by Mr. Wallace; it chiefly differs from his specimen in the colours being brighter and more distinctly defined, the parts which are rufous in the young being dark red-bay in the adult.

Prof. Schlegel, in the 'Nederl. Tijdschr. Dierk.' vol. iii., describes the adult animal under the name of *Phascogalea Thorbeckiana*, and refers to the younger one as *P. Wallacei* (Gray). (See Record Zool. iii. p. 43.)

The examination of the skull of the adult animal shows that the skull described and figured in the Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858, p. 112, tab. 64, is that of an animal with milk-teeth, while the teeth of the adult skull are very like those of *Phascogale* and *Antechinus*: they agree with the teeth of *Antechinus apicalis* in the third false grinder on each side being much smaller than the preceding teeth; but it differs from both these genera in not having any small third false grinder in the lower jaw; the true grinders in both jaws are more like those of *Antechinus* than *Phascogale*.

The synonymy of the species will be:—

*Myoictis Wallacii*, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858, p. 112, t. 64; Cat. Mam. N. Guinea in B. M. 1859, p. 11. figs. 1-4 (young).

*Phascogale Wallacei* (Gray); Schlegel, Nederl. Tijdschr. Dierk. iii. (1866) p. 355.

*Phascogalea Thorbeckiana*, Schlegel, Nederl. Tijdschr. Dierk. iii. (1866) p. 257; Zool. Record, iii. p. 43.

Inhabits Aru (*Wallace*), Island of Salawattie (*Schlegel*).

*On a new Locality for Trocheta subviridis.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—In February 1869 I published my identification of certain leeches sent to me for examination from the neighbourhood of Horsham; and in May of the same year Mr. Gedge mentioned, in the 'Annals,' having found in his note-book a memorandum of some having been sent to him, in the preceding January, from the same locality. I have now the pleasure of recording my having found this leech in the ditches of the Beddington sewage-irrigation farm of the town of Croydon.

The experiences of naturalists have differed as to the capability of *Trocheta* of living for any length of time in water. It may be interesting therefore to mention that I found my specimens entirely immersed in and crawling on the bottom of the great ditch through which the Croydon sewage passes before it flows over the land; and one of them is now alive in a bowl of water at the British Museum, where it has been four weeks, with the exception of a few hours spent in an envelope in my pocket. I am told that these leeches are also abundant on the other sewage farm belonging to the town of Croydon at Norwood.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

The Waldrons, Croydon.  
Nov. 19, 1870.

HENRY LEE.